

Melville United Church
 Sunday October 8, 2017
 Thanksgiving Sunday

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding Today: Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Thanksgiving.

It's not just a moment.

Thanksgiving.

It's not just a day.

Thanksgiving.

It's not just a season.

Thanksgiving!

Is an action,

to be lived always,

and to be lived all-ways.

Thanksgiving!

Is an attitude.

Is a promise.

Is a life.

So let us enter this place -

thanks giving!

Giving thanks -

to one another,

to all creation,

and to the Creator of All!

And let us worship our Creator together.

*Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516



October 8, 2017

Opening Prayer:

We give thanks, gracious God, for all we have been given:

the land and its resources,
 freedom and its rights and responsibilities,
the joy of sharing,
 the wonders of new life,
and the gift of this day.

Great Mystery, forgive us when we forget

that all we have and are originates in you.

Forgive us when we forget,

that Earth is our mother and what befalls her befalls us.

Forgive us when we forget,

and mistreat and abuse the gifts we have been given.

Guide us to be ever mindful of all you have done for us

that we might never stop giving thanks

for all things great and small. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Friends, hear this good news. God knows the deepest prayers of our hearts - even when we fail to speak the words. Generous and gracious lives are all God asks in return.

Thanks be to God!

Theme Conversation: Giving Thanks

Song: Thank you, God

Thank you, God, for giving us life.

Thank you, God, for giving us life.

**Thank you, God for giving us life,
 right where we are.**

Alleluia, praise our God.

Alleluia, praise our God.

**Alleluia, praise our God,
 right where we are.**

Thank you, God, for giving us love.

Thank you, God, for giving us_____.

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

help our lips to praise (*touch lips*)

help our hands to serve (*hold out hands*)

help our heart to love (*fold hands across chest*)

Amen.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:6-18 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*) (*God will bring you to a bountiful land*)

So keep the commandments of YHWH; walk with reverence in the ways of God. For YHWH, your God, is bringing you into a good land - a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and in the hills, a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey, and land where bread will not be scarce and where you will lack for nothing, a land where rocks are iron and copper is dug out of hills. You will eat and have your fill, and you will praise YHWH, your God, for the good land given to you.

Take care that you not forget YHWH by failing to observe the statutes, decrees and commands that are given you today. When you have had plenty to eat, and have built a fine house to live in, when your flocks and herds, your silver and gold, and all your possessions increase, do not grow proud and forget God, YHWH who brought you out of Egypt, from the land of slavery. It was YHWH who led you through the vast and desolate wilderness, a thirsty and waterless land, filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions. God made water spring forth for you out of solid rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had never known. God humbled you to test you, and in the end, to make you prosperous. Do not say to yourself, "My own strength and the power of my hands brought this wealth to me." Remember God, YHWH, who enabled you to produce this wealth, to confirm the covenant that God swore to your ancestors, which is fulfilled today.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 6:1-13

(*paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms*) (*Thanksgiving*)

We can't put it off any longer, God.

We come crawling to you,

because we have all fallen short of your expectations.

We have all missed the mark.

But you have not held our failures against us.

We stumbled, and you picked us up;

we were sinking, and you helped us swim.

You treat us with honour and respect.

You make us welcome.

It is more than we dare ask, more than we could ever expect.

We have no right to such kindness.

You are the creator of the world,

You push mountains into ranges;

you calm the raging oceans;

you spin the earth on its axis.

Before you, we are as insignificant as ants,

parading our puny armies.

If you stamp your feet, we will be squashed.

We boast of our science and technology,

but by ourselves we cannot make a single seed sprout;

we cannot shape a single raindrop.

We destroy, but only you bring life.

Through the cycle of the seasons, with reckless generosity,

you share the wealth of the earth.

As tiny drops of dew gather into rushing streams,

so our small thoughts gather into a gush of gratitude.

The whole world celebrates your goodness.

Like dolphins dancing through the waves,

like antelope prancing through long grass,

the whole earth leaps in exuberant gratitude.

Reader: Don Grant

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

(The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation) (God loves a cheerful giver)

Keep this in mind: if you plant sparingly, you will reap sparingly, and if you plant bountifully, you will reap bountifully. You must give according to what you have inwardly decided - not sadly, not reluctantly, for God loves a giver who gives cheerfully. There are no limits to the grace of God, who will make sure you will always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works, as scripture says: "God scattered abroad and gave to poor people; God's justice endures forever."

The One who provides seed for the planter and bread for food will

also supply and enlarge your store of seed and increase your harvest of justice. You will be made rich in every way for your generosity, for which we give thanks to God.

For the administration of this service not only supplies fully the needs of the holy ones, but also overflows in thanksgivings to God. By offering this service, you prove yourselves. And that makes them give glory to God for the way you obey and profess the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity to them and to everyone. And their prayers also show how they are drawn to you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for such an indescribable gift!

Message: 5 Things I Still Believe About the Bible

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

VU 343

Offering:

***Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation

VU 538

***Offertory Prayer:**

With all that we have,

with all that we are,

we come to you,

Most Holy Presence -

knowing that all of it

is blessed by your love!

With humble and grateful hearts,

we offer our gifts, as tokens of our love.

Amen!

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Holy Sacred Spirit

MV 15

Holy sacred Spirit,

breathe your breath on us.

Holy sacred Spirit,

breathe your life in us. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:**Prayer of Jesus:**

***Hymn:** Now Thank We All Our God **VU 236**

***Blessing:**

Go in peace, remembering God's goodness.

We will remember.

Remember God's loving presence.

We will remember.

Remember how God has provided for your every need.

We will remember.

Remember that God will be with you

to sustain you and care for you, this day and always.

We will remember. Amen.

***Parting Song:** You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

We live in a land rich in harvest, yet multitudes die daily for want of bread.

We choose our clothes from many changes, yet multitudes cannot afford our cast offs.

We live in well-built, comfortable houses, yet multitudes have no place to call home.

We have books we have never opened, yet multitudes have no books to read.

We have work that feeds mind and body, yet multitudes have jobs that feed neither.

God, unlike millions of your people, we have been given much.

Let us remember that, from those to whom much is given, much shall be expected. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Burkholder, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Karen Smillie, Mary Hume,
Lynne Lamb, Alison Rainford

Counters: Karen Smillie, Lynne Lamb